

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
FEDERAL BUILDINGS FUND

The conferees agree to provide \$37,000,000 for the Federal Buildings Fund, as proposed by both the House and Senate.

**TITLE III—EMERGENCY AGRICULTURAL  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

The conference agreement provides a total of \$500,000,000 for emergency agricultural disaster assistance instead of \$3,944,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. This assistance is targeted to counties located in the geographic area covered by a disaster declaration related to hurricanes Katrina, Ophelia, Rita, Wilma, or a related condition. In addition, counties that are contiguous to hurricane disaster counties are eligible for this assistance.

The conferees expect the Department of Agriculture to work with eligible individuals and entities to make payments under the authority of this Act, or from section 32 pursuant to the Secretary's May 10, 2006, announcement. The conferees encourage the Department to ensure that individuals or entities receive the higher benefit for which they are eligible.

Section 3011 of the conference agreement provides \$40,000,000 to make assistance available to producers/processors of sugarcane in Florida that are located in hurricane affected counties and are eligible to obtain a loan under section 156(a) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996. This section also provides \$40,000,000 to make assistance available to producers/processors of sugarcane in Louisiana that are located in hurricane affected counties and are eligible to obtain a loan under section 156(a) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996. In addition, this section provides \$400,000 to provide assistance for hurricane losses for a farmer-owned sugarcane cooperative in Texas, including additional demurrage, storage and transportation costs of raw sugar resulting from hurricanes and related conditions during calendar year 2005.

Section 3012 of the conference agreement provides \$95,000,000 for the Livestock Compensation Program, and \$45,000,000 for the Livestock Indemnity Program. This section allows poultry and egg producers to receive assistance under this program. The conference agreement includes language that requires that all eligible applicants conduct an agricultural operation that is physically located in a hurricane-affected county.

Section 3013 of the conference agreement provides \$95,000,000 to provide assistance to specialty crops and nursery crops in hurricane affected counties. This assistance shall be carried out under the same terms and conditions as the assistance that was provided in certain areas of Florida due to hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Jeanne.

Section 3014 of the conference agreement provides \$17,000,000 to assist dairy producers who experienced spoilage losses and are located in hurricane-affected counties.

Section 3015 of the conference agreement provides \$15,000,000 to assist producers and first-handlers of the 2005 crop of cottonseed. The conference agreement includes language requiring that all eligible applicants must be located in hurricane-affected counties.

Section 3021 provides a definition for the term "tree", and directs that the Secretary provide assistance under the tree assistance program established under sections 10201–10203 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002. The conference agreement includes language requiring that all eligible applicants must be located in hurricane-affected counties. The estimated cost for this provision is \$35,000,000.

Section 3022 provides an additional \$100,000,000 for the Emergency Forestry Con-

servation Reserve Program for recovery efforts in hurricane-affected counties.

Section 3023 of the conference agreement includes language to provide clarification to the Secretary on the implementation of the Emergency Forestry Conservation Reserve Program.

Section 3031 provides \$9,600,000 to cover administrative costs incurred by the Farm Service Agency directly related to carrying out disaster assistance.

Section 3032 provides flexibility for the implementation of section 32 funds that were announced by the Department of Agriculture on May 10, 2006 for aquaculture producer grants. The estimated cost for this provision is \$8,000,000.

Section 3033 designates the funds made available in this title as an emergency.

Section 3034 includes provisions waiving certain rulemaking procedures and paperwork reduction requirements.

While the assistance provided by this title is limited to producers in areas affected by Gulf Coast hurricanes in 2005, the conferees fully recognize the losses suffered by farmers, ranchers, and rural communities in all parts of the nation. At such time as may be reasonably determined by the Secretary, the conferees direct the Department to apply any unused funds from this title, and any unused funds from the May 10, 2006 announcement (71 Fed. Reg. 27188) relating to 2005 Section 32 Hurricane Disaster Programs to respond to disaster-related events including wildfires in Texas and other states, drought, flooding in Hawaii and other states, and other natural disasters.

**TITLE IV—PANDEMIC FLU  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN  
SERVICES**

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
EMERGENCY FUND  
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The conference agreement provides \$2,300,000,000 to prepare for and respond to an influenza pandemic, the same overall funding level as proposed by the Senate. The House bill did not include a similar provision.

The conference agreement includes provisions proposed by the Senate giving the Secretary various authorities to purchase goods for the stockpile, enter into contracts for antivirals, construct or renovate privately-owned buildings, and transfer funds to other HHS accounts.

Within the total provided, the conference agreement includes \$30,000,000 to be transferred to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for activities related to international surveillance, planning, preparedness, and response to the avian influenza virus. Neither the House nor the Senate included a similar provision.

The conferees intend that all federally-funded international surveillance, preparedness, and response activities be planned and implemented in a coordinated manner to maximize the chances of early detection of potential pandemics. The conferees expect HHS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and USAID officials to coordinate their international pandemic-related activities at all levels by maintaining frequent contacts at the senior leadership, program management, and on-the-ground personnel levels. The conferees direct HHS and USAID to submit a joint report to the appropriate House and Senate Appropriations subcommittees, within six months of enactment, which details their international surveillance, preparedness, and response activities and describes the manner in which they have been coordinated.

Within the total provided, the conferees have set aside \$250,000,000 for state and local preparedness activities. The Senate included \$300,000,000 for state and local capacity and the House did not include a similar provision. The conferees recognize that state and local public health departments play essential roles in responding to influenza outbreaks, including implementation of necessary epidemic containment measures, provision of services to homebound and disabled populations, distribution and redistribution of available antiviral medications and vaccines to high priority populations, and coordination with all other local medical and emergency response authorities. Therefore, the conferees encourage the Department to assure that distribution of pandemic influenza funds and all aspects of Federal pandemic influenza planning are consistent with operational realities at the local level and will have the intended public health results when implemented locally. The conferees further urge the Department to assure that all aspects of its pandemic influenza planning and preparations avoid duplication and inconsistency with other Federal directives affecting public health preparedness.

The conferees understand that State and local public health officials must be prepared to coordinate large-scale vaccination efforts in the case of a pandemic influenza outbreak. Therefore, the conferees encourage State and local public health departments to conduct local mass immunization exercises using seasonal flu vaccine.

Within the funds provided for upgrading state and local capacity, funds may be used for regional training meetings bringing together several states. These funds may also be used, if determined necessary by the director of CDC, to enhance flu program planning efforts and the existing preparedness training network at the established CDC centers for public health preparedness and other accredited schools of public health.

Within the total provided, the conference agreement includes \$200,000,000 for CDC. These funds are intended to augment the fiscal year 2006 appropriation and expand and enhance on-going activities related to global and domestic disease surveillance, laboratory capacity and research, laboratory diagnostics, risk communication, rapid response, and quarantine. The Senate proposed a total of \$250,000,000 for these activities within CDC, but included two separate provisions. The House did not include a similar provision.

The conference agreement does not include \$5,000,000 as proposed by the Senate for the Smithsonian Institution to carry out domestic disease surveillance. The House did not include a similar provision.

The conferees are aware of the Department's plan to subsidize "up to" 25 percent of the cost of 31,000,000 courses of anti-virals. The conferees note that the bill language authorizing this subsidy is flexible and does not require, nor limit, the amount of the subsidy. The conferees encourage the Secretary to consider subsidizing these purchases beyond 25 percent for States whose finances have been severely affected by Hurricane Katrina and other hurricanes of the 2005 season. The conferees believe that access to life-saving drugs should be based on public health need, not the finances of the State in which an individual resides.

**FUNDING FOR PANDEMIC INFLUENZA VACCINE  
INJURY COMPENSATION**

The conference agreement does not include \$289,000,000 for a pandemic influenza vaccine compensation fund as proposed by the Senate. The House did not propose a similar provision.